

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 /139 W
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R 260514Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3147

SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJ: FAREWELL VISIT TO CAMBODIA BY COMUSSAG GENERAL VOGT

1. IN A FAREWELL CALL TO PHNOM PENH SEPTEMBER 25/26, GENERAL VOGT SPENT AN HOUR WITH LON NOL AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, VISITED THE THIRD DIVISION NORTH OF THE PREK THNAOT RIVER AND THE NAVY HEADQUARTERS AT CHRUI CHANG WAR, AND WAS HONORED AT A FORMAL DINNER GIVEN BY LON NOL.

2. WITH THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL (DEFENSE MINISTER MAJGEN U SAY AND FANK C IN C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ ALSO PRESENT) GENERAL VOGT PRAISED THE FANK FOR ITS GREATER SELF-RELIANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM, AND FOR THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF PHNOM PENH AND KOMPONG CHAM. HE PAINTED A SOMBER PICTURE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS THROUGHOUT THE PENINSULA, AND PREDICTED THAT THE KHMER INSURGENTS WOULD MAKE A SECOND MAJOR ATTEMPT TO TAKE PHNOM PENH AND IMPORTANT PROVINCIAL
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CAPITALS DURING THE COMING DRY SEASON. GENERAL VOGT

PREDICTED THAT THE FANK WOULD DEFEAT THAT EFFORT AS DECISIVELY AS IT HAS WON THE FIRST ROUND, PROVIDED THE GKR ACTS QUICKLY TO RECRUIT AND CONSCRIPT AND FILL OUT ITS UNITS. LON NOL AND COUNCIL MEMBERR WERE OBVIOUSLY GRATIFIED BY GENERAL VOGT'S APPRECIATION OF FANK. IN HIS OWN REMARKS, LON NOL CONCENTRATED ON HIS FREQUENT THEME OF AN ANTI-DRV FRONT AMONG SEA COUNTRIES.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION LATER ON, LON NOL PROBED FOR ANY INDICATIONS THAT U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MIGHT DIMINISH. GENERAL VOGT ASSURED THE MARSHAL THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED.

4. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT THE VISIT THE KHMER EXPRESSED A GENUINE REGRET AT GENERAL VOGT'S DEPARTURE. NOT ONLY AS COMMANDER OF USSAG/7TH AIR FORCE, BUT AS A FREQUENT VISITOR, COUNSELOR, AND ENCOURAGER, GENERAL VOGT ACHIEVED A POSITION OF MUCH PERSONAL AUTHORITY VIS-A-VIS KHMER MILITARY AND GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE KHMER TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE MAN ON WHOM THEY HAD SO MUCH RELIED AT A TIME WHEN THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY CAN RELY MORE ON THEMSELVES.
ENDERS

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